

III.—MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY.

January 14.—W. Barlow, F.R.S., Past-President, in the Chair.

A. Hutchinson: "Stereoscopic Lantern Slides of Crystal Pictures." The twin pictures are projected by means of a double lantern through screens of complementary tints—red and green—and are viewed through similarly tinted screens, one for each eye. If the adjustment is correct a black and white picture stands out in relief. This method admits of the properties of crystals and of crystal structure being demonstrated simultaneously to a large number of students.—L. J. Spencer: "Mineralogical Characters of Turite (= Turgite) and some other Iron-ores from Nova Scotia." The mineral collection of the late Dr. H. S. Poole, which was presented to the British Museum in 1917, contains, amongst the iron-ores, specimens of magnetite, hæmatite, turite, goethite, limonite, chalybite, mesitite, and ankerite, from many well-defined localities in Nova Scotia. The dehydration curves and optical characters of turite ($2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$), goethite ($\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$), and limonite ($2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$) prove that these, at least, amongst the large group of ferric hydroxide minerals are distinct species with crystalline structure; some others are colloidal. Turite (= turgite, an incorrect German transliteration from the Russian) is a hard, lustrous, black mineral, with a radially fibrous and concentric shelly structure, and gives a dark cherry-red streak; the fibres are optically birefringent and strongly pleochroic. Sharp brilliant crystals with the forms of goethite, but consisting of anhydrous ferric oxide, i.e. pseudomorphs of hæmatite after goethite, were described.

CORRESPONDENCE.

YUNNAN CYSTIDEA.

SIR,—In bringing (quite courteously) a general charge of inaccuracy against my observations on the Yunnan Cystids, Dr. Cowper Reed (GEOL. MAG., February, 1919, p. 93) has confined his instances to two. (1) As regards the diplopores of *Sinocystis laczyi*, many of which certainly appear at first sight to be covered with tubercles of epistereom, I was able to detect the minute openings, just below the apex of the tubercle, even in unworn surfaces from which I myself cleared away the matrix (GEOL. MAG., Nov. 1918, p. 512, fig. 5); Dr. Reed was not able to see the openings in such unabraded tubercles. Therefore, while maintaining that the pores normally opened, I have admitted that they might occasionally become clogged. (2) I am glad to assure Dr. Reed that I have never questioned the existence of the "runnels" on the surface of *Ovocystis mansuyi*. I have only denied that they are food-grooves. Those on which I made notes from the actual specimen were attributed to a combination of causes (GEOL. MAG., 1918, p. 514).

When novelties are independently described by more than one student, contradictory conclusions and divergent observations are not uncommon. The matter is then generally decided by a fresh

observer. He will be greatly assisted to a decision when the original describers have given the detailed evidence for each statement made. Anticipating the scrutiny of future workers, I have always enumerated the material studied and have supported each statement in turn by reference to precise specimens or even to a particular area on a specimen. The present case forms no exception, so any competent observer in Calcutta can soon check my account of the facts by using the same methods of examination.

F. A. BATHER.

OBITUARY.

HENRY CHARLES DRAKE, F.G.S.

BORN 1864.

DIED JANUARY, 1919.

WE regret to record the death of H. C. Drake, F.G.S., of 10 Oak Road, Scarborough, at the age of 55, after a seizure. He was a keen palæontologist, a member of the Palæontographical Society, and made a large collection of vertebrate remains from the secondary rocks. At different periods he lived at Leicester, Hull, and Scarborough, and the museums at each of those places have been enriched by his collections, though possibly that at Hull is the most extensive, and includes a fine series of Saurian and other remains from the Oxford Clay. He also sent specimens to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) at South Kensington. He wrote a number of papers in the *Naturalist* and in the publications of the Hull Scientific and Field Naturalists' Club, the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, and the Scarborough Philosophical Society.

T. S.

CHARLES RICHARD VAN HISE.

BORN 1857.

DIED 1918.

CHARLES RICHARD VAN HISE was born at Fulton, Wisconsin, and educated at the University of Wisconsin, of which he afterwards became president. The greater part of his life was devoted to teaching and research, and his geological work was chiefly connected with the development of the iron-bearing region of Lake Superior. His researches in this direction led to the publication of an important memoir entitled *Principles of North American Pre-Cambrian Geology*, but his name is perhaps most widely known as the author of a monumental work on Metamorphism, in which the subject is dealt with from many points of view, one of the most important underlying ideas being the conception of successive zones of the earth's crust characterized by different grades of metamorphism, both constructive and destructive, each accompanied by its characteristic type of rock-deformation. Van Hise also investigated the geological relations of the well-known and destructive landslides of the Panama Canal, while his later years were much occupied by administrative work and by special duties connected with the War, including a visit to this country and to France, whence he had only recently returned at the time of his death, following an operation.

R. H. R.